



Kentucky Geologists

Volume 8 Issue 2

December 2006

Mission

The mission of the Board of Registration for Professional Geologists is to regulate the public practice of geology in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth from negligent, incompetent, or fraudulent practices.

Board

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Doug Reynolds, *Vice Chair*
Thomas P. Ryavec
Robert E. Fox, *Public-at-Large*
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Kentucky Division of Occupations & Professions

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As an agency of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists is solely funded by applicants and credential holders, and receives no tax dollars.

ASBOG Annual Meeting

by Doug Reynolds and Tom Ryavec

The ASBOG Annual Conference was held in Park City, Utah from October 31 through November 4, 2006. Board members Doug Reynolds and Tom Ryavec attended this conference as representatives for the Kentucky Board of Registration. Mr. Ryavec participated as a member of the Council of Examiners, while Mr. Reynolds attended the executive committee sessions as a voting delegate.

Council of Examiners Workshop

The Council of Examiners sessions lasted two full days. Most of the participating state boards sent representatives to these sessions. The purpose of these sessions was to review the examination that had been administered in October and also to review the examination that would be administered in the Spring of 2007. The participants were split into two groups. One group worked on the fundamentals section of the examination, while the other group worked on the practical section of the examination. Mr. Ryavec selected the practical section (PG) of the examination to review over the two-day period.

The psychometricians who consult with ASBOG to create the examinations run a number of statistical measures on the population of examination data after each administration. They concluded that there were no problems with the exam and also noted that their metric for "Estimated Reliability" was very satisfactory. The participation of professional psychometricians has ensured that the examinations have a robust and verifiable integrity. In this regard the examinations have been continually improving.

After the statistical results were re-

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Executive Committee Meetings

Mr. Reynolds attended the annual meeting of the National Association of State Boards of Geology as a voting delegate. In that capacity, he was responsible for oversight of the annual activities of the association.

The assembly considered a several fiduciary issues. ASBOG is currently in a transitional phase in that over the past few years the organization has grown steadily as various states have established registration. These state boards each pay annual dues. Currently, there are very few additional states considering instituting registration, so the period of steady growth is ending. The current dues level meets the administrative overhead of ASBOG, but not much more. General inflation will mandate a dues increase at some point, but that measure was not proposed at this meeting.

President Gabrielle Enos summed up the essence of ASBOG when she said, "We be exam," her point being that

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Welcome

New Registrants!

Professional Geologists

04/25/06:

Sheri Adkins (KY)
Mark Begley (IN)
Michael Coffey (TN)
Sarah Gaddis (KY)
Christopher Jung (KY)
Mark Wood (KY)
Richey Cline (KY)

04/28/06:

Russell Kanith, Sr. (PA)
Dean Stefanczyk (WI)
Howard Miller (OH)
Samuel Vinson (KY)
Wanfang Zhou (TN)

05/12/06:

Shawn Cecil (KY)

06/09/06:

Cynthia Abbott (TN)

07/24/06:

Daniel Huffaker (WI)

08/24/06:

Michelle Freimund (WI)
Leslie Arthur (TN)
E. Glenn Hargrove (FL)

11/17/06:

Bradley High (KY)
Robert J. Blair (KY)
Amber W. Couch (OH)
Christopher R. Everett (OH)
Brian E. Mott (OH)
Matthew J. Mullin (OH)
John M. Gossett (IN)

Geologists-in-Training

04/25/06:

Chris Adair (KY)
Joshua Cochran (KY)
Weldon Hawkins (TN)

11/17/06:

Joseph Lee Islas (KY)
Matthew G. Nemecek (KY)

Total Registrants

1607 Professional Geologists
5 Geologists-in-Training

Calendar

2007 Board Meetings Tentative Schedule –

February 12
April 9
June 4
August 6
October 1
December 3

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location:

Div. of Occupations & Professions
911 Leawood Dr., Frankfort KY

Note: Dates are subject to change.

Please call the Board Office if you plan to attend.

Kentucky 2007 ASBOG Exams

Exam Dates Application Deadlines

March 2 January 5
September 28 August 3

ASBOG 2007 Annual Meeting & Council on Examiners Workshop

October 23 – 28, 2007
Denver, CO

Board Actions

Complaint Review Report

The Complaint Review Committee met October 2, 2006, to determine sufficiency as to whether information alleged constituted an initiating complaint or whether further information was needed.

Board Legal Actions

Final action was taken against John J. Manes, Scottsdale, Arizona, who in response to an initiating complaint filed with the Board, signed and submitted a Cease & Desist Affidavit promising he would not hold himself out to the public using the term “geologist” or any other term that implies he is a Kentucky-licensed geologist, and that he would not practice geology in Kentucky as that term is defined by law.

Licensee Disciplinary Actions

No actions were finalized since the last announcements.

ASBOG Exam Results

October 6, 2006

Fundamentals	7 passed; 15 tested
Practice	9 passed; 9 tested

Information exchange with KHEAA

Under Kentucky Revised Statute 164.772 (effective July 15, 2002), the General Assembly mandated that state licensing agencies shall not issue or renew licenses to any person who is in default of their repayment obligation under any financial assistance program administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Administration (KHEAA). On August 15, 2006, Mike Sanders, Chair, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with KHEAA, as required under the law, in which the Board agrees to annually provide KHEAA with a list of all registrants. Any registrants identified by KHEAA as having defaulted in repayment of their loans will be ineligible to renew their Professional Geologist registration, and their registration will expire, unless they work out a compliance plan with KHEAA. A written notice of that plan must be sent to the Board by KHEAA. Registrants identified by KHEAA as in default will be notified of their status by the Board in a letter delivered via certified mail. If you have questions about your student loan status with KHEAA you may call 800-928-4241, or go to <http://www.KHEAA.org>.

Letter from the Chair

In the last newsletter, I wrote about the importance for geologists to obtain a Professional Geologist (PG) or Geologist-in-Training (GIT) license. Geologists are required to have one of these credentials if they practice geology in the private sector of Kentucky. Under our current law, government positions that require geological work are exempt from needing credentialed geologists to fill those posts. I received a quick response from several geologists in the public sector who pointed out in their letters that I failed to discuss the importance for having these credentials in government positions and the fact that state government has created some positions that require PG status. Many compelling arguments both tangible and intangible were offered as to why geologists should obtain their PG or GIT if they plan to pursue a geological career in government. Let me share a brief sampling of these responses.

“While registration is not a requirement to perform the practice of geology while employed by the state, registration is important for advancement and peer recognition in state government. Kentucky has personnel classifications entitled “Geologist Registered” and “Geologist Registered Supervisor”, which both require registration by the Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists. In addition, the classifications of Geologist I, Geologist II, and Geologist III have education requirements which are waived if the applicant has PG registration in the state of Kentucky.”

“I have practiced geology for over

twenty years and watched the evolution of the profession as we moved from certification by private organizations, many restricted to sub-disciplines, to a widespread system of government entities certifying professionals using consistent, defensible standards. This process has been a great benefit to the profession as it has set standards for the achievement of “competence” milestones easily recognized by both geologists and the public.”

“The Commonwealth has deemed it necessary to require geologists to be registered to protect the general public from those individuals who are not qualified or who intend to do harm. Many geologists employed by state government are likely to be in contact with more members of the public than many other geologists practicing geology in the private sector.”

“I think our profession is better in and out of state government if geologists pursue a PG registration. I hope that geologists in the private sector realize that it is beneficial to them to be submitting reports to a PG.”

“I am a PG because licensure demonstrates knowledge, professionalism, and ethical accountability. I routinely direct work carried out by Registered Professional Geologists in the private sector, and I want them to be confident in my ability to do my job at the highest level possible. It is important for me to be recognized as a professional with equal qualifications.”

Before our licensure law, many of us who practiced geology obtained

certifications from national geological organizations to establish a level of professionalism for ourselves and our geological community. Since the passage of our law and licensure laws in other states, the bar for professionalism has de facto been raised. It is not surprising to see that many geologists have obtained a PG or GIT credential whether they are required by law to do so or not. Geologists working in our public sector are no exception. Many have sought to raise the level of our profession in government by becoming registered and encouraging registration. Our Commonwealth is well served by these professionals.

MICHAEL P. SANDERS

Chair

Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists



Mike Sanders, PG, Chair

Division Director appointed



Claude Wagner, Director

Claude Wagner was appointed by Governor Ernie Fletcher as Director of the Division of Occupations and Professions effective July 1, 2006, replacing John Parrish who retired May 31st of this year. Mr. Wagner brings to the Division 30 years of experience in the private business sector, including 10 years in procurement in the automotive industry. He has extensive experience in budget preparation, purchasing law, and financial reporting. In addition, he is well versed in the areas of ethics, contract negotiations, conflict resolution, and fiscal management. Mr. Wagner has worked in both domestic and

international markets, including those of Singapore, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Mexico, and Canada. He holds an undergraduate degree in Business Management from the University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business and Economics.

Michael Sanders reappointed to Board

On August 23, 2006, Governor Ernie Fletcher reappointed Michael Sanders, PG, to the Board to serve a four-year term ending in 2010.

Council of Examiners Workshop

Continued from page 1

ported, each participant was provided a copy of the October test and allowed the time necessary to work all 100 questions. Upon completion, each question was discussed by the group. This discussion had several objectives. One objective was to determine the validity of the keyed answer for each question so that there would not be more than one answer in the choices provided for each question. Another objective was to evaluate the content and purpose of the question as to the geologic principle being tested and ensure that a practicing geologist with five years of experience would be able to reasonably answer the question. The PG examination attempts to test the candidate's knowledge base in a variety of geologic areas, such as field geology, petrology, paleontology, hydrogeology, environmental geochemistry and economic geology, just to list a few. The number of questions in each area of geology became a

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Executive committee meeting

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most of the dollars that pass through the organization come in as examination fees and exit as costs in developing and creating exams. The costs surrounding exam development are subject to inflation, so periodic increases are required. At this meeting an increase in the fee for the Practice of Geology exam was approved raising it from \$150 to \$200.

Another element, the Task Analysis Survey (TAS) process, is on a five-year cycle. The TAS guides the exam creation process by providing data from practicing professionals about the skills and scope of their practice. These data keep the topical matter of the exam timely and relevant. At the present time examination fees are insufficient to cover both the costs of exam production and the task analysis process. A potential funding mechanism was set in motion with the approval of the operating budget. The plan is to establish a foundation, distinct from ASBOG, whereby the interest from a pool of donated money is dedicated to meeting operating expenses. Time for accountants and attorneys was budgeted to establish this foundation. More information will soon be forthcoming.

ArcGIS v. 9.2

Upon release of the new ArcGIS v. 9.2, the Introduction to ArcGIS is planned to be extended to a three-day course. In addition to information pertinent to the update, a whole new set of teaching materials will be used in future workshops. The first new course offering by the Kentucky Geological Survey will most likely be no sooner than February, 2007. For more information, please contact Matt Crawford, Kentucky Geological Survey at 859-257-5500 ext. 209.

*Council of examiners workshop
Continued from page 4*

point that was vigorously discussed so the examination would not be heavily weighted in one single area of geology. The growth in the environmental area over the past ten years that has increased the number of geologists employed in that field has resulted in an increase in the number of test questions in this task area. The primary driver is the "task weighting" methodology used to define the number the questions for a particular geologic task. This methodology develops the weighting factor using a formula of time spent multiplied by the importance factor squared. To provide a more balanced test, the weighting formula was changed for the October 2006 test using the importance rating scale mean. Because of this weighting formula change, the questions are now more evenly distributed across the various tasks. The second day focused on the 2007 examination in a similar format, along with the development of additional test questions to be used on future tests.

The exam review portion of the conference is extremely important. The work done by the representatives from the various state boards and universities during these sessions continues to improve the examination. This process can be fairly intense but is rewarding in terms of ensuring that the PG examinations continue to be relevant and if challenged can hold up to close scrutiny.



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*Kentucky Division of Occupations
and Professions*



*Below: Slump along the I-75 in
Rockcastle County.*



American Association of Petroleum Geologists

Annual Convention and Exhibition
April 1 – 4 2007
Long Beach CA

Eastern Section Annual Meeting
Winning the Energy Trifecta:
Explore, Develop, Sustain
September 16-18
Lexington KY
<http://www.esaapg07.org>

Donald C. Haney Distinguished Lecture

April 19, 2007

KGS Annual Seminar: Geology and Public Policy

April 20, 2007

**University of Kentucky
Lexington KY**

Society of Mining Engineers Central Appalachian Section

**April 12 – 14
Lexington KY**

World of Coal Ash

Science, Applications
and Sustainability

May 7 – 10, 2007
**Northern Kentucky
Convention Center**

Sponsored by
American Coal Ash Association
and
University of Kentucky
Center for Applied
Energy Research



ASBOG Field Trip, November 3, 2006 -- Sherwood Hills landslide complex near Provo, UT. Francis Ashland, PG, a Senior Geologist in the Geologic Hazards Program of the Utah Geological Survey, holds aloft a piece of the very ductile, clay-rich shale that this slide is failing along. Holding Mr. Ashland's poster is Rick Allis, Director of the Utah Geological Survey. The group is standing on the site of a former dwelling that was demolished only a few years after it was built. It was literally torn in two as the slide continued evolving.

Kentucky Geologists is published semiannually by the Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists. The publication features topics relevant to the ethical practice of geology in the Commonwealth. Suggestions for the newsletter should be directed to Judith Hower, Communications Specialist, Kentucky Geological Survey, 228 Mining & Mineral Resources Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington KY 40506-0107, (859) 277-0777; FAX (859) 257-1147 <jhowe2@pop.uky.edu>.



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